

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H.3412**

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TO:	The Honorable Joe E. Brown, Chairman, House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Kate Billing, Kenneth Brown, Rodney Grizzle, Harry Bell		
DATE:	February 16, 2005	SBD:	2005193

AUTHOR:	Representative Harrison	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	44-17-410
SUBJECT:	Court Order- Mental Health Patients		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

BILL SUMMARY:

This Bill relates to the emergency admission of individuals to mental health facilities. Among other things, it puts a 72 hour time limit on the validity of a court order authorizing mandatory treatment and custody; it establishes procedures and adds immunity for a law enforcement officer that takes a person believed to be mentally ill into protective custody; and it amends the process for involuntary commitments of persons who are mentally ill or chemically dependent; and it grants the family court authority to commit certain children for evaluation.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Department of Mental Health

This Bill would enable patients to be released from Department of Mental Health hospitals faster, freeing up beds for other individuals waiting for inpatients services. The Bill would also provide an outpatient evaluation option for children and adolescents, again freeing up beds for other children waiting for inpatient services. The Department indicates that this Bill would have no impact on the General Fund of the State or Federal and/or Other Funds.

Department of Public Safety and Judicial Department

Both of these agencies indicate this Bill would have no impact on the General Fund of the State or Federal and/or Other Funds. These revisions to commitment procedures should not impact expenditures.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

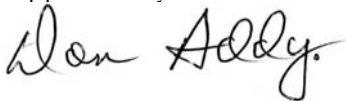
Responses from local governments indicate enactment would have no impact on expenditures.

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Don Addy
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget